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U.S. POSITION ON NUCLEAR TESTING ASSAILED

Kornilov Commentary

LD282125 Moscow TASS in English 2120 GMT 28 Feb 86

[Text] Moscow, February 28 TASS -- TASS political news analyst Yuriy Kornilov writes:

Larry Speakes, deputy press secretary of the White House, in reply to a request to comment on the House of Representatives' resolution calling to press for a ban on all nuclear tests, has stated in Washington that the measures envisaged by the resolution do not serve the interests of the United States. Thereby Washington confirmed that it intends to go ahead with nuclear weapon testing.

The White House spokesman's statement has laid bare once again a different approach, moreover -- a diametrically opposite approach to such major problems of disarmament as cessation of nuclear tests. The Soviet Union is known to have introduced a unilateral moratorium on any nuclear explosions way back in August last year and then extended it until March 31. Highly appreciating this Soviet act of goodwill, prominent political and public figures of various countries have pointed out and continue to do so with good reason that the act is a big and concrete practical step which, if reciprocated by the United States, could become a major stage on the way to reliably cutting off the channels of nuclear weapons' sophistication.

However, the U.S. ruling circles stubbornly adhere to a different line and a different approach. Although there is no lack of "peace-making" statements in Washington now about the administration's commitment to the cause of arms control, the statements are not backed up by practical deeds. The architects of U.S. foreign policy continue the course towards whipping up the arms race, and publicly declare, as President Ronald Reagan did recently, that strength is the most convincing argument in the international arena. Such a line also determines Washington's attitude to the Soviet moratorium.

The preamble of the treaty on the prohibition of nuclear weapon tests in the atmosphere, in outer space and under water, which was concluded as far back as 1963 and which was also signed by the United States, has it that the states which are parties to the treaty, will seek to secure termination of all tests of nuclear weapons forever and that they are resolved to continue talks to that end. Twenty-three years have passed since then. And what did Washington do to fulfill the obligation it assumed? Nothing at all. Nuclear tests in the USA are going on -- are being continued pointedly as an overt challenge to the world public. Since the Soviet Union announced the moratorium, the United States has carried out seven nuclear explosions. Sixteen nuclear tests were conducted in the USA in 1985 all in all.

Washington politicians and bourgeois propaganda media resort to every kind of conjectures in an attempt to conceal, to camouflage the true goals of its militarist course! Those include mythical "verification difficulties", completely false discourses to the effect that the Soviet proposal on a moratorium is unacceptable because the USSR ostensibly carried out more nuclear explosions than the United States, although it is known from reports of the authoritative Stockholm Peace Research Institute that by the beginning of 1985 the USA had carried out 772 nuclear explosions whereas the USSR -- 556. It is also being stated in Washington that nuclear explosions should not be discontinued because nuclear weapons serve as a certain "deterrent factor"...

In actual fact, of course, the causes of Washington's stubborn refusal to discontinue nuclear explosions have nothing to do with those "arguments", if one may call them so. Congressman (Dem.) Edward Markey, touching upon the question of why the White House is in opposition to the demands for an end to such tests, has pointed out that the resolution of the House of Representatives urges the President to stop the tests of X-ray nuclear-pumped lasers -- one of key elements of the "star wars" programme. Mr Markey went on to say that the administration opposes general and complete termination of nuclear tests because it wants to get ballistic missiles of increased power, the Trident-2, and new-generation nuclear warheads. Therein is the essence and the root of the negative attitude of those circles in Washington which, contrary to the spirit of time and to reason, are unwilling to abandon the dangerous and absolutely prospectless attempts at achieving military superiority and at regarding power, the nuclear-space cudgel, as the "only argument" in relations with sovereign states and peoples!

Congressman (Dem., Massachusetts) Gerry Studds maintains that the U.S. Administration does not consider arms control the goal of its policy.

The White House spokesman's statement, in which the idea of a ban on nuclear tests is rejected, once again confirms that this is really so.

'No Will' To Stop 'Nuclear Madness'

LD020018 Moscow World Service in English 0001 GMT 1 Mar 86

[Text] The White House has said it opposes a congressional resolution urging the President to resume negotiations with the Soviet Union for a comprehensive nuclear test ban treaty. Here are some details:

In his latest speech on military spending, President Reagan has drawn a grim picture of the United States not having enough weapons. On the next day, a Pentagon report said that in no other time in American history was the nation as strong militarily in peace time than it is at present. There were similar inconsistencies and contradictions in the past but never before were they so glaring. In that same speech of his President Reagan solemnly declared: We want agreements that truly diminish the nuclear danger. We want real agreements, agreements that really work, with no cheating.

How true is this verbal fireworks? How true are all those statements about Washington's passionate desire for disarmament that travel from one speech to another? Mikhail Gorbachev's plan to rid humanity of nuclear arms by the year 2000 continues everything in terms of control and verification those peace champions in Washington have claimed they had wanted all along. They scorn national means of control as inadequate and want international ones that would use the latest achievements in seismology. All this is in the Soviet plan. They wanted on site inspection; it is also there. What else do they want to exclude cheating?

This country is as interested in control and verification as the United States is. The Soviet Union has extended its unilateral moratorium on all nuclear tests till 31st March and if this bold Soviet commitment to slow down the arms race was violated that would become known immediately, but Moscow honors its obligations. If there is a will there is a way, but there is no will in the White House to stop the nuclear madness. They want to go on with it because nuclear testing is vital for their nuclear buildup. It is also vital for their star wars program, which relies on nuclear powered chemical lasers and other weapons. In Washington they don't want to stop. This is the only truth and there can not be two ways about it.

The U.S. Administration has been offered a unique opportunity to do for humanity the only thing that makes sense: To save it from potential destruction. No weapons can give one side an adequate protection. No defenses can provide security. It is a political problem which requires new thinking, new ideas and a new set of moral values and at the current Communist Party congress in Moscow the Soviet leader, Mikhail Gorbachev, was most emphatic about it. The moment of truth has finally arrived for the American people. There is a genuine and widespread desire in the nation to do something about the arms race and the nonbinding congressional resolution urging the White House to resume test ban talks is a case in point. On the other hand, they have an administration, described as very popular, who oppose even the slightest pause in the race while asking for more powerful and newer means of mass destruction.

Congressional Resolution Noted

PM281410 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 28 Feb 86 Morning Edition p 8

[TASS report: "U.S.A.: The Stance of Congressmen..."]

[Text] Washington, 27 Feb -- Following a fierce debate, the U.S. House of Representatives passed by 268 votes to 148 a resolution calling on the administration to immediately resume talks aimed at the conclusion of a treaty on a universal and total nuclear test ban.

The resolution also contains a recommendation to the President to submit for ratification by the Senate the treaties on the Limitation of Underground Nuclear Weapons Tests and the Treaty on Underground Nuclear Explosions for Peaceful Purposes.

The passing of the resolution, which was approved just minutes before President Reagan's address on nationwide television yesterday, in which he again advocated conducting talks with the Soviet Union "from a position of strength," was a major defeat for the White House. For more than a year now and with help from its proteges on Capitol Hill, the administration has been trying hard initially to block the examination of the resolution, and later to emasculate its content.

Exposing the real reasons for the opposition from the White House and its reactionary supporters to the demands to end nuclear tests, Democrat Representative E. Markey pointed out that "this resolution calls on the President to halt the tests of nuclear-pumped X-ray lasers, which are one of the key elements of the 'star wars' program." The administration, he went on, is against the universal and total termination of nuclear tests because it wants to acquire the increased-yield Trident-2 ballistic missiles and new-generation nuclear warheads. The time has come to disperse the propaganda cloud of arguments by opponents of the treaty on total and universal nuclear test ban, the congressman said.

"The proposals recently put forward by Soviet leader M.S. Gorbachev have a far-reaching significance," Representative J. Huckaby (Democrat, Louisiana), pointed out. "For the 7th month now the Soviet Union has been unilaterally observing a ban on all nuclear explosions. Why does the United States not follow the USSR's example?"

U.S. Violates 'Spirit' of Treaties

LD010056 Moscow Television Service in Russian 2054 GMT 28 Feb 86

[From "The World Today" program; presenter unidentified]

[Text] Commentaries in the U.S. press show that the decisions of the CPSU Congress will have a long-term effect not only on the life of the Soviet Union, but also, probably in the United States and other countries.

THE WASHINGTON POST sharply criticizes the Reagan administration for declining to give a positive response to the Soviet Union's call for an end to nuclear tests. The refusal to discuss with Moscow the question of a nuclear test moratorium and a total ban on them, the paper writes, is a violation of the letter and the spirit of the appropriate international treaties signed by the United States. It is dictated by Washington's desire to create more and more efficient types of nuclear weapons.

Many prominent political and public figures of various countries are noting that the USSR's latest major peaceful proposals, reaffirmed in the report by Mikhail Sergeyvich Gorbachev at the congress, create a good basis for the attainment of practical results in the most varied fields of restricting arms. All the more disappointment is caused by the Reagan administration's reaction to the Soviet Union's constructive steps. The United State's overt unwillingness to come to terms with world public opinion is also condemned by the majority of participants in the Geneva disarmament conference. The U.S. stance has already been criticized there by many delegations from the socialist and nonaligned countries. They have stressed the urgent need to ban nuclear explosions, prevent the militarization of space and ban chemical weapons. And by all accounts, this is precisely what Washington does not want to achieve, preferring to urge the country onto a militaristic path.

It should be noted that the administration's position is bringing forth fairly sharp criticism in the United States itself. For example, THE NEW YORK TIMES stresses: The refusal to discuss with Moscow the question of a moratorium or a test ban means that the President is violating the legal obligations he has undertaken both according to the 1963 partial nuclear test ban treaty and the 1968 nuclear weapons non-proliferation treaty. According to these agreements, the United States pledged to undertake steps and conduct negotiations aimed at ending any nuclear tests. Pointing out that ending them would make difficult or even impossible the creation of new kinds of nuclear weapons, the newspaper reasons: This is the reason why Reagan does not want to ban nuclear tests.

BOGACHEV QUESTIONS U.S. AIMS REGARDING EUROPEAN MISSILES

LD011334 Moscow TASS in English 1245 GMT 1 Mar 86

["Washington's Real Aims in Europe" -- TASS identifier]

[Text] Moscow, March 1 TASS - TASS military news analyst Vladimir Bogachev writes:

Why Washington declines a treaty with the Soviet Union on medium-range missiles in the European zone?

If one is to believe official representatives of the U.S. Administration, the White House originally even "began preparing a positive reply" to the Soviet Union's proposals on that issue. But things were allegedly hampered because of the obstinacy of the allies. If one is to believe such claims, the latter refuse point blank to say good-bye to the American nuclear missiles. The Bonn and London leaders feel ill at ease also without Soviet missiles in Europe.....

American General Edward Rowny is claimed to have gone to the Far East with the sole aim of convincing the Japanese that a "reduction of missiles is better than fruitless talks", the NEWSWEEK magazine claims. Paul Nitze, a consultant of the U.S. President, was running off his feet, paying visits in London once to Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, once to the secretary for the defence. But, as is claimed, the allies of the United States have flatly rejected disarmament. And, if one is to believe the USA, the American "peace-makers" returned in Washington empty handed.

Such a sorry picture of a "collapse of the U.S. peace efforts" is painted now also by some U.S. mass media. Not only newspapers and magazines have joined in the noisy propaganda show staged by Washington around the European security problems. The most obedient Natoists -- Helmut Kohl, Margaret Thatcher, Yasuhiro Nakasone and some others were forced to appear in the title roles in that comedy.

What are the real aims of that show?

Quite recently representatives of the White House were trying to convince the world public for everybody to hear that the United States was prepared to eliminate a "whole class of medium-range missile weapons". Yet now the same political figures claim that it is undesirable to eliminate these missiles of the USSR and the USA in the European zone. American General Bernard Rogers, NATO supreme allied commander, Europe, who earlier quoted fantastic data about some "muliple superiority of the Soviet nuclear forces in Europe", is saying now that a mutual elimination of the same medium range nuclear missiles "would be disadvantageous to NATO".

The point, certainly, is not obstinacy of the European allies of the USA. Usually American emissaries in Western Europe do not reckon too much with the allies of the USA. Quite recently they were twisting the arms of Dutch political figures to force their missiles on that country contrary to the will of the population and Parliament of the Netherlands, and did so quite successfully.

One cannot help drawing the conclusion that Washington is out to preserve whatever the cost its first strike nuclear missiles in Western Europe. The propaganda campaign launched by the U.S. Administration around the problem of European security is designed to facilitate the attainment of that aim.

The main obstacle in the way of resolving the question of elimination of medium-range missiles in the European zone, is, as before, that the U.S. Administration set out not to reduce weapons through talks, but to ensure an uncontrolled build-up of the mass destruction weapons by the United States.

U.S. 'RULING QUARTERS' PRESSING 'STAR WARS' PROGRAM

LD011216 Moscow TASS in English 1154 GMT 1 Mar 86

"Usa Going Into High Gear With 'Star Wars' Program," -- TASS indentifier]

[Text] Washington, March 1 TASS -- TASS correspondent Igor Borisenko reports: U.S. ruling quaters are pressing on with the "star wars" program which is the centerpiece of their hopes to upset the existing military parity and achieve global military superiority.

Work under the project, which is officially called the "Strategic Defense Initiative", is proceeding at full tilt, the ultra-righist Heritage Foundation reported in the backgrounder bulletin.

It said, in particular, that substantial progress had been made at the U.S. Navy's laboratories developing a chemical laser. When its prototype was tested last September, the laser beam destroyed the first stage of a Titan-1 rocket, which was fixed on the ground and served as the target.

The Lawrence Livemore Laboratory in California has come up with a free-electron laser with a rated peak power of one billion watts.

The bulletin's author, Heritage Foundation staffer Holmes, said that the significant headway made in devising lasers and targetting aids might mean that an antiballistic missiles system using lasers could be deployed ten years earlier than originally expected.

Washington is going to try out the projected ABM system's individual components at crash rates. The backgrounder made it clear that plans were already afoot to test a sophisticated array of early-warning pickups which would be installed aboard a plane. The system is intended to track ballistic missiles. Holmes said that a number of the system's assemblies had already been tested under an antimissile defense program pursued by the U.S. Army.

SCIENTIST EXAMINES WEAKNESS OF SDI SYSTEMS

LD281148 Moscow in English to North America 2300 GMT 27 Feb 86

["Part one" of "Soviet technical assessment" of the U.S. "star wars" program during interview with Dr Boris Rauschenbach, member of the USSR Academy of Sciences and specialist in complex automatic systems, by science correspondent Belitskiy; from the "Science and Engineering" program; date not given -- recorded]

[Text] [Belitskiy] Why is it, Dr Rauschenbach, that many scientists both in the Soviet Union and in the United States consider SDI unacceptable and dangerous to humanity?

[Rauschenbach] Consider the global aim of SDI. It is to create a system capable of destroying every single one of the ballistic milliles no matter how numerous launched in the direction of the United States by an enemy. Moreover, they are to be destroyed before they or any of their warheads are over American territory. Now, let's consider how it's proposed to accomplish this. The flight of a ballistic missile may be divided into several phases, and during each of those phases different weapons are to be used for missile destruction. In the ideal case, according to the SDI scenario, the first stage of missile destruction should take place over the territory of the potential enemy at an altitude of less than 500 kms. You must remember that while the missile is still in the earth's atmosphere its's practically invulnerable to laser weapons or to space based particle accelerators. But then the missile emerges from the atmosphere, its boosters still functioning. During this period of time, ranging according to various estimates from 2 to 5 minutes, an accurately pointed laser beam is to pierce its fuel tank walls, causing their destruction. The missile should in that case either fall on enemy territory or else fly in a direction different from the intended one owing to a fuel shortage or the malfunctioning of its on-board systems.

[Belitskiy] But surely it would be wishful thinking to count on destroying by such means all the missiles fired?

[Rauschenbach] That's why the American 'star wars' strategists envisage that during a second echelon of its flight a missile travels by inertia. During this phase it can no longer be deflected from its course and can only be destroyed. Furthermore, it's during this phase of the flight that the independently targeted warheads separate. It's they, according to the SDI scenario, that are to be destroyed by satellite-based small homing interceptor missiles or space-based rail guns capable of imparting to their projectiles velocities of up to several dozen kilometers a second. Still another possibility, according to this scenario, is the shooting down of the missiles by directed energy weapons. Finally, the scenario also envisages a third layer of antimissile defense which consists of ground based antimissile wespons. What makes the whole SDI concept absurd is the fact that neither these three antiballistic missile layers nor any other number of them can assure the destruction of all the enemy missiles, let alone all the warheads, and each warhead is capable of blotting out a big city.

[Belitskiy] And so even the most sophisticated and expensive ABM systems cannot guarantee 100 percent protection of a country's territory, but new physical principles are being proposed all the time for weapons technology. One now hears talk of super-powerful hydrogen, fluorine, and other chemical lasers, and these would be based on the ground but their beams would be focused by space-based reflectors onto a target. The American press also speaks of x-ray lasers that would be activated by the energy of nuclear explosions. Possibly there may emerge other methods of upgrading ABM systems.

[Rauschenbach] Well of course there may, but take your last example, the nulcear-pumped x-ray laser. This is a space-based device that requires the explosion of a small atom bomb of the type dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Cylindrical rods would then be used to beam the blast energy at each target. For several such rods to direct energy at several targets the targets however must appear at the same time. But knowing the mechanism of nuclear pumping, the attacking side could merely stagger the missile launches or could launch decoys. This is a typical example. In the final analysis if one side builds a certain number of fantastically expensive battle-stations in space capable of destroying a certain number of ballistic missiles, the mere increase in missile numbers could make such an ABM system meaningless in practical terms. And of course, it's not difficult to increase the number of warheads on a missile by adding decoys such as balloons. A missile, let alone a warhead, is far simpler and less expensive than such a battle-station. It would also be possible to resort to false launches, disperse all kinds of chaff in space, and blow up battle-stations by space mines. This, too, would be far simpler than knocking out a missile, since a battle-station is a satellite flying in a known orbit observed daily and clearly vulnerable to any anti-satellite weapon. In short, considering the natural counter-measures available to the other side, the proposed missile shield turns out to be a highly unreliable system.

[Belitskiy] But this brings us to another question. Why then is SDI such a danger to humanity if it's a mere waste of enormous funds and resources?

[Rauschenbach] The main danger is that SDI is a terribly destabilizing initiative, it increases the probability of war. After all many people today consider nuclear war to be practically impossible since, as someone put it, whoever fires first dies second. In other words starting a nuclear conflict today is suicide. But a missile shield, even a partial one, can give some military hotheads and political ones too the false impression of relative security. They may reason something along those lines, since I'm firing all my missiles first retaliation at my territory will be weakened because many of the enemy missiles will have been destroyed in their silos or naval vessels. As for the weakened return strike, I can intercept that with my ABM shield, softening the blow at my country. American strategists have even invented such an unnatural term as "acceptable damage," in other words the side possessing even a partial missile shield may be tempted to deliver a preemptive nuclear strike.

And secondly, as I have said, one of the simplest responses to such an ABM system is to increase the number of one's missiles. What we are proposing, on the other hand, is drastic cuts in the number of missiles and the total abolition of nuclear weapons by the year 2000.

[Belitskiy] I know that quite a number of American scientists share this view of SDI, for example Hans Bethe, the Nobel laureate in physics, has said against missiles there is no defense, the offence could always fool the defense, so anti-ballistic missiles for city defense are technically nonsense. Or consider this statement made by American politicians Robert McNamara, George Kennan, Gerard Smith and McGeorge Bundy. There is simply no escape, they said, from the reality that "star wars" offers not the promise of greater safety but the certainty of a large scale expansion of both offensive and defensive systems of both sides. "Star wars", in sum, is a prescription not for ending or limiting the threat of nuclear weapons but for a competition unlimited in expense, duration and danger. Well, what is surprising is that American scientists and engineers, although understanding the implications of "star wars", are nonetheless taking part in developing new types of space weapons.

[Rauschenbach] You must realize that scientists have a peculiar mentality. A scientist is often unable to resist the challenge of some problem that baffles him, he is motivated by a search for knowledge and knowingly, or unknowingly, he finds all sorts of excuses for what he is doing, say the excuse that the type of laser he is developing in his lab at the moment may prove useful in medicine, or genetic engineering, or somewhere else. He prefers not to think about the fact that this laser will be used first of all for military purposes. Naturally, this mentality of the scientist is much exploited in the West. However, by far not all scientists and engineers allow themselves to be deceived about the true nature of their work. I recently visited Prague, where we discussed what should be done to keep weapons out of space. Our West German colleagues told the meeting that professors and other researchers at many universities in their country were more and more often refusing to take part in military research projects. But an American scientists reminded the meeting that a large part of the scientists in the United States worked for various firms and not universities and for them the choice was either to do what they were told to do or else lose their jobs.

[Belitskiy] Still, more and more scientists in the United States too have lately taken a firm stand against the very idea of a space missile shield, against preparations for "star wars". Seventeen hundred American scientists, among them 14 Nobel laureates, have refused to become involved in SDI.

[Rauschenbach] Well I can add to that that in our country we have set up a committee, Soviet Scientists for Peace and Against the Nuclear Threat. I am a member of this committee, which is chaired by Dr Yevgeniy Velikhov a vice-president of the USSR Academy of Sciences. Not so long ago representatives of our committee spoke in the United States Senate about their findings on various problems related to the maintenance of peace in the world. We consider this work extremely important, and I regard this discussion with you as stemming from my duty, my duty as a scientist familiar with the technical and scientific factors that make it sheer madness to develop new antimissile systems leading to nuclear war in space. Such madness has to be fought by all possible means.

USSR-U.S. STRATEGIC ARMS GROUP HOLDS SESSION IN GENEVA

LD261433 Moscow TASS in English 1420 GMT 26 Feb 86

[Text] Geneva, February 26 TASS -- A session of the group for strategic armaments was held here today within the framework of the Soviet-American talks on nuclear and space weapons.

GENEVA PARTICIPANTS DISSATISFIED WITH U.S. ARMS STANCE

LD281104 Moscow TASS in English 2153 GMT 27 Feb 86

[Text] Geneva, February 27 TASS -- The unwillingness of the United States to heed the opinion of the world public, who demand concrete results in ending the arms race and attaining disarmament is the cause of dissatisfaction of the majority of the participants in the Geneva conference on disarmament. The American stand has been criticised by many delegations of socialist and non-aligned countries, which were proving the need of prohibition of nuclear explosions, prevention of militarisation of outer space, prohibition of chemical weapons.

Speaking at the meeting today, Rolf Ekeus (Sweden) emphasised that continuation of the tests cannot be justified either by linkages with reduction of nuclear arsenals, or "care" for ensuring efficiency of nuclear "deterrence", or references to difficulties of verification. Full prohibition of tests would promote progress in negotiations on reduction of armaments, consolidation of confidence, said Sweden's representative. As to verification, contemporary scientific-technological means ensure sufficient reliability, let alone the possibility of having on-site inspection. In this connection Rolf Ekeus favourably appraised the latest Soviet proposals.

Head of the U.S. delegation Donald Lowitz in his speech actually reaffirmed that the American leadership is rather seeking to hamper the quest for solution of cardinal problems, by advancing all sorts of conditions, than to facilitate it.

DEVELOPMENT OF 'MODERNIZED' CRUISE MISSILE NOTED

LD282219 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1745 GMT 27 Feb 86

[Sergey Pravdin commentary from the "International Diary" program]

[Text] The United States is not only developing strike systems in space, but is also continuing its build-up of other weapons at a rapid rate. AFP, quoting sources close to the Pentagon, reports that the U.S. Air Force will acquire, in the course of the coming year, the first so-called modernized cruise missiles. This name has been thought up specially so that these missiles may attract as little attention as possible. In reality, several features make them fundamentally different from previous cruise missiles. The chief of these, the agency says, is the special compound with which their cases are coated: This creates an electromagnetic field around the missile which causes strong interference to radar. The main contractor manufacturing these new cruise missiles is the corporation General Dynamics.

The modernized cruise missiles also have a greater range -- about 4,000 km as against 2,400. The Pentagon strategists calculate that these missiles, which are clearly offensive in nature, will reach both military and civilian targets throughout the whole territory of the Soviet Union.

KORNIYENKO, AKHROMEYEV HOLD 28 FEB NEWS CONFERENCE

Reagan, USSR Arms Proposals

LD281726 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1415 GMT 28 Feb 86

[News conference by USSR First Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Georgiy Korniyenko and Marshal of the Soviet Union Sergey Akhromeyev, chief of the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces and first deputy minister of defense; participants introduced by Leonid Zamyatin, head of the International Information Department of the CPSU Central Committee; at the press center of the 27th CPSU Congress in Moscow on 28 February; recorded]

[Text] [Korniyenko] In the Political Report by the CPSU Central Committee, delivered at the Congress by Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev, as well as in the course of discussion of the report -- as you can see -- much of the discussion is devoted to questions of the foreign policy activity of our party and the Soviet state.

From the report and the speeches, it should be clear to all that the cornerstone of all this activity is Lenin's tenet, reaffirmed in the new edition of the program, that the historic dispute between the two opposing systems into which the world is divided must and can be resolved by peaceful competition and not by the path of war.

Accordingly, the main goal of the CPSU's foreign policy continues to be that of guaranteeing the opportunity for the Soviet people to work in conditions of durable peace. But we depart from this premise: Durable peace is needed by all peoples, not only the Soviet people. In our view, peace is an essential condition for social progress as a whole; and furthermore, today it is a question of the survival of the human race.

Now, at a time when mankind already has in its power the means for self-destruction, the Soviet Union sees as the number-one problem to stop material preparations for nuclear war, reverse the arms race on earth and prevent one in space, and by the end of this century completely eliminate nuclear weapons everywhere.

Unfortunately, as has already been said at the congress, the reply from the U.S. side that came a few days ago to the nuclear disarmament program proposed by the Soviet Union can in no way be considered constructive. Quite the contrary: It testifies to the fact that the U.S. leadership intends to go further along the path of whipping up the arms race on earth and extending it into space, and in striving to ensure military superiority for itself.

Evidently in order to leave no one in any doubt about this, President Reagan made a statement on 26 February which was entirely devoted to singing the praises of force as the most convincing argument, in his words, which the United States has at its disposal. However, it should be clear to everyone that the Soviet Union will not permit the United States to violate the military strategic balance in its favor, just as it does not strive to violate it in its own, the Soviet, favor. It should also be clear that the unceasing increase in the level of military confrontation is not at all a path to peace, as President Reagan assures us. In conditions of an increase in military arsenals even the presence of parity, as was said in the report to the congress, at best ensures equal danger but in no way equal security.

As early as before the war and then in the postwar period, the Soviet Union showed a preference for ideas of collective security. But today, it is our deep conviction that this is not simply preferable but is the only possible way of ensuring lasting peace.

It is precisely this which defines our party raising the question of creating an all-encompassing system of international security, the bases of which -- in the military, political, economic, and humanitarian spheres -- were set out in the Political Report.

These bases, as Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev said, could become the starting point and a kind of framework for a direct systematic dialogue between the leaders of the countries of the world community, both a bilateral and multilateral dialogue. It is in this context that the idea is put forward that the leaders of the five states which are permanent members of the Security Council should hold a roundtable discussion of what must be done to maintain and strengthen peace.

[Unidentified speaker] Questions, please. Mnatsakanov, Gosteleradio.

[Mnatsakanov] I would like to ask you to return to the latest appearance of the U.S. President on national television. What he said was apparently a sort of reaction or response to all that is being said at the congress of Soviet Communists about peace, disarmament, and international security. Couldn't you go into a little more detail on this matter?

[Zamyatin] Reagan's speech shows that in its statements the United States is now continuing the course which it has formerly pursued, where the stress is placed on military force as the method of solving existing questions. Yes, Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev said in the Political Report of the party's Central Committee that the U.S. proposals are being studied, taking account of the additional elucidations which the U.S. delegation has given in Geneva. But in general, even now, comparing Reagan's two latest speeches, it may be said that the U.S. response is not constructive. It is one-sided in nature, and in effect runs directly counter to the proposals made by the Soviet Union in the 15 January statement of the general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee.

While confirming his adherence to the goal of liquidating nuclear arms, Reagan in both his speeches gives no clear and concrete program to achieve this goal; on the contrary, he hedges it with numerous provisos, conditions, and the possibility of resolving the negotiations only from a position of strength. In the U.S. proposals there is no solution to the fundamental question of preventing an arms race in space. Under various pretexts Reagan is declaring the U.S. "star wars" program inviolable and therefore, he says, restrictions on the development [razrobotka] of space strike weapons should not be included in the agreements. Consequently, Reagan's new so-called proposals once again bank on military superiority.

If we take another aspect -- strategic nuclear weapons -- the U.S. proposals reproduce without alteration the old U.S. proposal, on which the Soviet Union has already expressed its view. If such a proposal were to be implemented, the United States would obtain a superiority over the Soviet Union of more than double the number of nuclear charges. In addition, we would have had to break up our strategic nuclear forces and construct them anew according to the U.S. pattern; the Soviet Union's answer to this has also already been given officially, in our statements and in the Soviet Press.

Concerning medium-range missiles, we are being offered the so-called zero option, which was earlier rejected by the Soviet Union. Why was it rejected? Because its implementation would give the U.S. side the opportunity of preserving that which they would like to preserve in their proposals; and, in essence, so to speak, they depart from the proposals made by the Soviet Union. What, after all, is the difference between the new zero option and the previous zero options proposed by Reagan? The U.S. side is now simply proposing to extend it for 3 years, but its substance is the same -- to achieve advantages for the United States, including in Europe.

Let us take an acute issue which could be resolved now, and where military, scientific, and technical specialists confirm that a solution could be achieved literally, so to speak, in a few days: the issue of banning nuclear weapons tests. In the official answer, the United States officially stated that it takes a negative stance, claiming that as long as nuclear weapons are a restraining element the United States must continue testing. There is no possible way of interpreting such an answer other than as Washington's striving to continue the arms race. Moreover, the question of security is being linked -- and artificially too -- to the resolution of regional conflicts and other issues that have nothing to do with ending the arms race and eliminating nuclear weapons, as established by the Soviet Union.

[Akhromeyev] If we are to speak of the speech by President Reagan, in which he touches on specific aspects in the military field, I would like to add the following to what Leonid Mitrofanovich Zamyatin has said. The President, in his speech of 26 February, continues to try to intimidate his own people and the world public with the, quote Soviet military threat, unquote. In particular, he stated in his speech that in the period 1970-1975 the Soviet Union supposedly spent $500 billion more on its defense than the United States.

I was compelled to do some arithmetic, and I worked out that in the 15 years from 1970 to 1985 the United States spent on military matters $1.989 trillion -- virtually $2 trillion. If we add to this, as the President says, $500 billion, we find that over those 15 years the USSR spent $2.5 trillion on defense. If we convert this into rubles, we get 2 trillion rubles. And if one takes the entire Soviet budget for those 15 years and totals it up our budget came to 4 trillion rubles. These are widely known figures. It transpires, as the President says, that we spent 50 percent of our budget for those 15 years on military requirements. [as heard] But that is absurd, for in 1942 and 1943, in the very harshest period of the Second World War, we were spending such sums on our military requirements. In peacetime no state can spend so much. This is a dishonest [nedobrosovestnyy] calculation, but the point is that it is a different approach to international security. The Soviet Union, as Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev said at the Congress, makes provision for radical reductions in armaments to limits of reasonable sufficiency, with the aim of strengthening the stability of international security.

But the approach expressed by the President in his speech is a different one. It is the approach of a continued arms race. Their military-industrial machine still has no intention of slowing down.

[Announcer] The participants in the news conference proceeded to reply to other questions for correspondents.

Missiles in Asia 'More Complex' Issue

LD281330 Moscow TASS in English 1325 GMT 28 Feb 86

[Text] Moscow, February 28 TASS -- The problem of medium-range missiles in the European zone, despite its complexities, is easier to resolve that the problem of analogous missiles in the East, Marshal of the Soviet Union Sergey Akhromeyev, chief of the General Staff of the Armed Forces of the USSR, stressed at a news conference at the press centre of the 27th CPSU Congress here today. It is easier because confronting each other in the European zone are medium-range systems of the USSR and the United States. Similar systems of Great Britain and France are also positioned there.

In the East, the issue is more complex. The United States maintains up to seven aircraft-carriers in the Pacific zone. Roughly speaking, there are 350 nuclear weapon carriers with a range of up to 1,500 kilometres which threaten Soviet territory. These are the U.S. strategic aircraft based on Guam, these are American systems deployed in Japan, South Korea.

We hear nothing from the United States on this score, Marshal Akhromeyev said, but the demand for the solution of this problem simultaneously with the problem of the European zone. We agree, but let us decide what to do with your systems positioned in the Far East. So far, there has been no response to that from the American side.

Nonuse-of-Force Pact Supported

LD281346 Moscow TASS in English 1340 GMT 28 Feb 86

[Text] Moscow, February 28 TASS -- The Soviet Union sees recognition of the security interests of all states, respect for sovereignty and non-interference in the internal affairs of each other as an immutable principle, Marshal Sergey Akhromeyev, chief of the General Staff of the Armed Forces of the USSR, said at a news conference at the press center of the 27th Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union today.

"We call for signing of an agreement to renounce the use of force and threats to use force, and regard as inadmissable the actions of any state or a group of states aimed at gaining unilateral military advantages. It has been reiterated from the rostrum of the 27th Congress that wisdom consists in pressing for equal security rather than showing concern exclusively for oneself, the more so at the expense of the other side."

The United States abides by a different policy. Washington's official doctrine is based on retaliation, on intimidation and this makes for the arms race and serves to vindicate the course of seeking military superiority. This doctrine undermines the security of states and actually makes the whole world into a nuclear hostage.

One should not bank on force, as some people do in the United States, said Georgiy Korniyenko, first deputy foreign minister of the USSR. This is why the key objective of Soviet foreign policy, as has been strikingly confirmed at the 27th Congress of the CPSU, is to achieve success in the field of disarmament.

'Collective' Peace in Mideast Needed

LD281430 Moscow TASS in English 1320 GMT 28 Feb 86

[Text] Moscow, February 28 TASS -- The Soviet Union stands for a collective search for a settlement in the Middle East, Soviet First Deputy Foreign Minister Georgiy Korniyenko said at the press centre of the 27th CPSU Congress today. The latest developments in the region just illustrate the futility of separate deals, against which the Soviet Union has warned on more than one occasion.

Answering a question from a Kuwaiti correspondent, Korniyenko stressed that by its entire policy on the Middle East in general and on the Lebanese question in particular, the USSR had done everything it could, including at the United Nations, to ensure the prompt withdrawal of Israeli troops from Lebanon and also from other Arab lands.

As for the tripartite agreement in Lebanon, Korniyenko said, we wholeheartedly wish an end to the civil war in that country, wish to see Lebanon a united, sovereign and territorially integral state. It is our conviction that it is entirely up to Lebanon itself to find practical ways to this goal.

Iran-Iraq War Must End 'Soon'

LD281336 Moscow TASS in English 1140 GMT 28 Feb 86

[Text] Moscow, February 28 TASS -- The sooner the senseless and (?wanton and fratricidal war) between Iran and Iraq ends the better. The Soviet Union has always been upholding this stand and stating it publicly, Georgiy Korniyenko, first deputy minister of foreign affairs of the USSR, told Soviet and foreign journalists at the press centre of the 27th CPSU Congress today.

This Soviet viewpoint, he continued, was manifest in contacts with the leaders of both countries at a time when Iraqi troops were in Iranian territory, and we adhere to it after the situation has changed and Iranian troops have entered Iraqi territory.

In so doing, Korniyenko stressed, we proceed both from common humanitarian principles, from our understanding of the senseless character of that war, and from the fact that the conflict poses a threat to the situation in the region and may escalate and involve other states not only from that region but from other parts of the world as well.

So far (?as we) can, we are trying to make our position known in words and also making efforts to have the war ended, (?he) noted. Regrettably, we, like others, have not succeeded here.

USSR To Keep Ties With Philippines

LD281326 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1055 GMT 28 Feb 86

["On the Attitude of the USSR to the Events in the Philippines," -- TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow, 28 Feb (TASS) -- Recognition of the present government in the Philippines by the Soviet Union is not under question. Relations with the Philippines as a state exist and are being fully maintained, Georgiy Korniyenko, USSR first deputy minister of foreign affairs, stated today at a press conference.

Speaking at the press center of the 27th CPSU Congress Georgiy Korniyenko stressed: The Soviet Union is proceeding from the fact that the change of government in that country is the affair of its people. The USSR constantly adheres to the practice of establishing relations with a state and not with a particular government. It is the will of each people which government it is to have.

ARBATOV, PRIMAKOV, VELIKHOV PRESS CONFERENCE ON SECURITY

U.S. Tries To Isolate USSR

LD031310 Moscow TASS in English 1305 GMT 3 Mar 86

[Text] Moscow, March 3 TASS -- The problem of settling regional conflicts occupies an exceptionally important place in the Soviet concept of security, said Academician Yevgeniy Primakov.

He spoke today at the Press Centre of the 27th Congress of the CPSU at a press conference on the subject "The Soviet Concept of Security".

"We have gathered the impression that the U.S. side, prior to the Soviet-U.S. summit meeting in Geneva, tried to use the problem of regional conflicts to divert attention from a discussion of the arms reduction problem. The Soviet side holds that regional conflict situations should not be viewed in the light of Soviet-U.S. relations".

"Conflicts which originate at regional level," Yevgeniy Primakov emphasized, "arise to a considerable extent as a result of the fact that objective socio-economic and political processes occur or develop there. These processes should not be ignored in any degree".

"The Soviet Union is open to any consultations which could contribute to the elimination of conflict situations around the world. Meanwhile the United States in a number of cases steers matters towards isolating the Soviet Union from active participation in political processes aimed at settling some or other conflict situations. Such an approach is being perceived, for example, in the Middle East".

Regional Conflict Could Start Nuclear War

LD031231 Moscow TASS in English 1224 GMT 3 Mar 86

[Text] Moscow, March 3 TASS -- Conflict situations that emerge in the areas in which one of the sides has nuclear weapons or is close to having them are extremely dangerous for the cause of peace, Academician Yevgeniy Primakov has stated. This could create a situation in which a nuclear conflict could emerge not on a global level, but within the framework of a regional conflict, for example, in the Middle East or in the south of Africa, he pointed out, speaking today in the Press Centre of the 27th CPSU Congress at a press conference devoted to the Soviet concept of security.

The Soviet Union pursues a consistent policy aimed at non-proliferation of nuclear weapons, bearing in mind a possibility of the emergence of such a situation, Ye. Primakov said. The Soviet side is sure that all the present-day conflicts in the world should be settled by means of political talks.

Israeli Role in SDI Criticized

LD031347 Moscow TASS in English 1330 GMT 3 Mar 86

[Text] Moscow, March 3 TASS -- The Soviet Union regards the participation of Israel in the preparation and development of the U.S. "star wars" program as a negative factor that destabilizes the international situation, Academician Yevgeniy Primakov has stated. He spoke today in the press centre of the 27th CPSU Congress at the press conference devoted to the Soviet concept of security.

It is obvious that the participation of Israel in the developments within the framework of the so-called "Strategic Defense Initiative" of the Reagan administration on the level of private companies and state research institutions does not promote the stabilization of the situation in the Middle East, he stressed.

Velikhov on Soviet Space Stations

LD031325 Moscow TASS in English 1319 GMT 3 Mar 86

[Text] Moscow, March 3 TASS -- The permanent space stations that the Soviet Union now has in outer space have no relation whatsoever to "star wars", said Academician Yevgeniy Velikhov. He addressed a press conference at the Press Centre of the 27th CPSU Congress on the subject "Soviet Concept of Security" here today. These stations are launched under the definite scientific and technical programme. Certainly they demonstrate the level of the Soviet space technology. On March 6 and 9, our "Vega" probes are to pass Halley's Comet, Academician Velikhov went on. Given an immeasurably great imagination, one could portray it as a certain "accuracy experiment". In reality there is nothing of this kind. The task being fulfilled by the stations is purely scientific. On the other hand, our research shows that the Soviet Union possesses an adequate scientific and technical base for elaborating respective counter-measures against the U.S. "star wars" programme.

SDI Violates ABM Treaty

LD031208 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1055 GMT 3 Mar 86

[Text] Moscow, 3 March (TASS) -- The U.S. "star wars" program violates the accords which the United States and the Soviet Union reached in 1972, when an ABM Treaty was concluded, stated Yevgeniy Velikhov, vice president of the USSR Academy of Sciences. This treaty, Velikhov noted when speaking in the press center of the 27th CPSU Congress today, represents the basis of the entire process of arms control and arms reduction. Its violation therefore means destruction of the basis of this process, he said.

Nowadays, continued Yevgeniy Velikhov, there are no space strike weapons. Appearance of such weapons in space would mark a fundamental change in the strategic situation. Findings from serious scientific research which has been carried out in the Soviet Union and around the world have proved that putting strike weapons into space cannot make a country invulnerable; but it can significantly worsen strategic parity and make it less stable, Velikhov said.

Arbatov on Security

LD031405 Moscow TASS in English 1349 GMT 3 Mar 86

[Text] Moscow, March 3 TASS -- Efficient and reliable security cannot be ensured nowdays by military-technical means alone. Security has become a political problem and it can be resolved only through political means, said Director of the Institute of U.S. and Canadian Studies of the USSR Academy of Sciences Academician Georgiy Arbatov at a press conference today. The press conference was devoted to the Soviet concept of security.

One cannot have security at the expense or to the detriment of others. Security can only be mutual, universal, security for all. Despite acute contradictions existing in the world, all countries should master the science and art of peaceful coexistence, he stressed.

Speaking at the press conference, Vice President of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR Academician Yevgeniy Velikhov pointed to the extreme danger of the American "star wars" programme to peace.

It violates the Soviet-American treaty, the mainstay of the entire process of control over armaments, reduction of armaments. It has been fully proved, said Academician Velikhov, that placement of strike weapons into outer space cannot make a country invulnerable. The character of contemporary weapons does not leave any state the hope to protect itself through military-technical means alone, through creating the most powerful defences.

Answering a question, Academician Velikhov has said that the Soviet Union's permanent space stations are in no way linked with "star wars" and are put into orbit according to a certain scientific-technical programme. But these, certainly, demonstrate the standard of Soviet space technology.

Director of the Institute of World Economics and International Relations Academician Yevgeniy Primakov, who participated in the press conference, has noted that the question of settlement of regional conflicts holds a major place in the Soviet concept of security. But the Soviet side turns down Washington's attempts to view regional conflict situations through the prism of Soviet-American relations. The USSR, stressed Academician Primakov, is open to any consultations that could help liquidate such situations. Meanwhile, in a number of cases, specifically in the Middle East, the United States is leading things to barring the Soviet Union from active participation in political processes of settlement of conflict situations.

Touching upon the Soviet American negotiations, Academician Arbatov has said: The Soviet Union is doing the utmost to firmly accelerate the process of negotiations, which was agreed upon in Geneva. We hope to find support in that question.

Academician Velikhov declared for broad cooperation between scientists in the whole world in joint research bound to promote durable and reliable peace. He mentioned thermonuclear synthesis, environmental protection, exploration of the world ocean, forecasting of earthquakes, etc, as programmes of such cooperation.

FURTHER REACTION TO REAGAN'S DEFENSE APPEAL

PRAVDA Views Speech

PM281935 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 28 Feb 86 Second Edition p 8

[TASS report: "Whipping Up the Arms Race"]

[Text] Washington, 27 Feb -- At a time when appeals to the reason and conscience of all mankind are resounding from the rostrum of the 27th CPSU Congress in the name of ending the arms race and eliminating the threat of nuclear annihilation that hangs over mankind, Washington has openly proclaimed its intention to continue its militarist course. Appearing on national television, President Reagan declared that the administration will not allow any cuts whatever in the military budget's growth rates either in the current fiscal year or in the next. Praising the results of the long-term program being implemented by the administration to "modernize America's military might," which has already cost $1 trillion, the President especially credited himself with the creation of new generations of arms in the United States, such as MX first-strike ballistic missiles, the Trident system, and B-1B and Stealth bombers, and the deployment of Pershing-2 and cruise missiles on the territory of Western European countries.

Taking into account the mounting alarm, both inside and outside the United States, at the administration's policy of increasing military-political tension, the President tried to portray things as though the United States needs the unrestrained buildup of military muscle for...the success of the talks with the Soviet Union. "Preparations for war are one of the most effective means of preserving peace," the President claimed. "Strength is the most persuasive argument we have to convince our opponents to negotiate in earnest. Now that we are sitting at the negotiating table with the Soviet Union, let us not deprive America of the trump card."

R. Reagan publicized the White House's recently advanced "new" proposal in the sphere of limiting medium-range missiles, which is a rehash of the notorious "zero option" aimed at ensuring unilateral military advantages for the United States. He once again campaigned for the militarization of space, insisting on the speediest implementation of his "star wars" program, and he essentially made the adoption of the program a condition for resolving the question of reducing strategic arms. The U.S. President made it unequivocally clear that the administration has not the slightest intention of confining itself to so-called research in the shpere of the "Strategic Defense Initiative" and is already planning to create [sozdaniye] real space weapons systems without delay. "We have to translate our lead at the laboratory level into a lead in terms of specific arms," he declared.

In order to justify the policy of militarization and the pursuit of military superiority, the head of the administration returned to confrontationist rhetoric, falsifications, and crude slander against the Soviet Union. He claimed that in the seventies the United States had all but disarmed unilaterally, while "the Russians alone were running the arms race," "forgetting" the well-known fact that the Soviet Union had merely been forced to respond to the new arms systems developed by Washington. He tried to portray the successes of national liberation and anti-imperialist movements -- a natural historical process -- as a result of "Moscow's intrigues" and as evidence of "the Russians' aggressiveness." "We set out to show that there will come an end to the long string of governments coming under communist domination. And we are achieving this," he declared, citing as an example of the "success" of his policy the "liberation" of Grenada, which the whole world branded as an example of unconcealed armed aggression against a sovereign independent state.

Reagan demanded that members of Congress abandon the very idea of reducing the rates of growth of U.S. military spending. "We have acted together these past 5 years. So let us continue in the same spirit," he declared. Reagan also demanded that military aid to U.S. stooges "in strategically important regions" not be cut. "Our friends," he cynically declared, "can fulfill many tasks at a far cheaper price than we ourselves." What kind of tasks and what kind of price can be seen from the praise the President lavished on the enemies of the peoples of Afghanistan, Cambodia, Laos, Nicaragua, and Ethiopia and the mercenaries whom the administration supplies with weapons and money and drives to the slaughter in the name of implementing the American imperialist doctrine of neoglobalism."

Observers point out that the chief purpose of Reagan's speech is to prevent a cut in military spending that would threaten the profits of the U.S. military-industrial complex. J. Wright, leader of the Democratic majority in the Congress' House of Representatives, declared: If Congress agrees to the growth rate for the military budget proposed by the Reagan administration, then at the end of this decade we will be spending almost four times as much on military purposes as at the height of the Vietnam war. THE NEW YORK TIMES called the President's speech a means of putting political pressure on Congress to secure a shift in the argument that has flared up in the United States over the military budget, pointing out that "support for the policy of increasing military spending has weakened" in the United States, including in Congress, as a result of the summit meeting. And a high-ranking White House spokesman was forced to confirm this opinion when he described the President's speech as "a further effort to push the military budget through Congress."

Congressional Criticism Noted

LD281644 Moscow TASS in English 1604 GMT 28 Feb 86

[Text] Washington, February 28 TASS -- The patently militaristic appeals made by President Reagan on national television have drawn criticism from American politicians and from the press of the United States and other countries.

Notable American Senator Gary Hart stated that the President was pushing the country onto a militarist path, paved with good intentions and gold bricks. However, the United States has already followed this path during five years, and has paid dearly. The military budget, according to the senator, is worsening the federal budget deficit, which it had created in the first place. Now the President calls for an 11 per cent rise in the military budget. Hart pointed out that even the Republicans considered such a rise unrealistic.

House member Patricia Schroeder noted that none of the measures suggested by the administration to cut the colossal budget deficit affected the Pentagon's multibillion military programs. According to Schroeder, she will co-sponsor with House member Ronald Dellums an alternative military budget which will define priorities and areas essential to the security of America.

"President Reagan's emotionally televised appeal for his defense spending proposals ran head-on into a deeply ingrained public attitude that the military buildup under his administration has involved a large amount of waste and should be slowed," THE WASHINGTON POST says. Reagan claimed, according to the newspaper, that he had taken over a country which had "suffered" from military spending cuts over the years. The Pentagon's documents show, however, that U.S. military spending was steadily growing virtually throughout the 1970s.

New York, February 28 TASS -- "It's even a violation of Mr. Reagan's legal responsibilities for him to refuse to discuss a moratorium or a test ban with Moscow," THE NEW YORK TIMES says.

"In both the Limited Test Ban Treaty of 1963 and the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty of 1968, the U.S. is solemnly pledged to work and negotiate for an end to all nuclear tests for all time." The newspaper says that the ending of nuclear tests would make the development of new nuclear weapons far more difficult, if not impossible, and says: "precisely for that reason Ronald Reagan does not want a test ban."

Paris, February 28 TASS -- President Reagan "repeated his old arguments and returned to his erstwhile concept of the 'evil empire,'" L'HUMANITE says. "It is symptomatic that he spoke on television immediately after Mikhail Gorbachev had delivered the Political Report of the CPSU Central Committee to the Congress of the Soviet Communists, reiterating the Soviet program for the complete elimination of nuclear weapons. The presidential statement constitutes a de facto reply to the Soviet peace proposals. The head of the U.S. Administration is finding it harder and harder to win over to his side the public and is likely to face serious difficulties at the forthcoming congressional and Senate elections."

Further on Congressional Criticism

LD021013 Moscow TASS in English 1223 GMT 1 Mar 86

[Text] Washington, March 1 TASS -- TASS correspondent Aleksandr Lyutyy reports: President Ronald Reagan's recent militaristic speech on television has drawn harsh criticism from members of U.S. Congress.

Senator William Proxmire said President Reagan was basically wrong when he went on talking about a U.S. military lag behind the Soviet Union. The United States, the senator argued, did not need any extra appropriations for military needs, which its chief executive was calling for. The United States, Proxmire stressed, should conduct arms control talks from positions of military parity.

Congressman Sander Levin said Reagan in his speech had tried to give the nation and Congress a scare with his claims about "Soviet threat". But even a high-ranking administration spokesman who held a news conference for journalists before that speech, Levin added, had conceded there was an essential military equilibrium between the Soviet Union and the United States. The truth was, the congressman remarked, that the United States had adequate defense capability.

Congressman Barbara Boxer said, for her part, that the United States did not need at all to add further billions of dollars to its already outsize military budget. She cited latest public opinion surveys as showing that 59 percent of Americans consider military spending unreasonably high and think it necessary to axe it to reduce the enormous Federal budget deficit.

WHITE HOUSE 'FURIOUS' OVER ABC AIRING POSNER REMARKS

LD010005 Moscow TASS in English 2326 GMT 28 Feb 86

["ABC Under Fire For Giving Air Time to Soviet Spokesman" -- TASS item identifier]

[Text] Washington, February 28 TASS -- The White House is beside itself with rage. And not only the White House. Republican National Committee Chairman Frank J. Fahrenkopf Jr. has said that it was "insulting to the American people" for ABC to give Vladimir Posner, commentator of the USSR State Committee for Television and Broadcasting, an opportunity to express his opinion on the U.S. President Ronald Reagan's nationally televised speech.

Congressman Robert K. Dornan, speaking in the House of Representatives, was so infuriated that he used overtly non-parliamentary expressions in U.S. Congress.

The cause for the outburst of emotion was really "weighty": The ABC TV network showed, in the authorities' opinion, political shortsightedness by enabling Posner to comment on the speech of the President who, resorting, as usual, to the myth about "aggressiveness" of the Soviet Union, in his address to the nation had urged the Americans to give support to a further augmentation of military expenditures.

The President himself was one of the first to give an estimate of ABC's flirting with the "freedom of speech" in the USA. "I don't know why the hell the media is so willing to lend support to the Soviets", THE WASHINGTON POST quotes Reagan as telling a bipartisan congressional leadership meeting at the White House. After the meeting of high officials of the White House, Patrick J. Buchanan, director of communications of the White House, sent ABC a letter saying that "the debate over what America requires -- to defend herself, her allies and friends from the awesome military power of the Soviet Union -- is a debate for Americans to conduct. Soviet propagandists have no legitimate role in that discussion".

White House officials, the letter said, were "astonished" that the network had given "a trained propagandist for the Soviet Union" equal standing with the President and House Majority Leader James C. Wright Jr., who gave the Democratic response to Reagan's speech. The ABC leadership hurried to apologise to the White House.

Well, to muzzle an opponent is quite a convenient-to-the-USA way of conducting a dialogue with the USSR on vital issues of war and peace at a time when the U.S. public shows increasing concern over the administration's non-constructive stand on disarmament issues. To U.S. mass media this entire story has become yet another convincing illustration of the "freedom of speech" and "exchange of ideas" which the present U.S. Administration officials are so fond of talking about.

REAGAN'S WEEKLY RADIO ADDRESS REPORTED, VIEWED

Supports Revised Arms Purchasing

LD021347 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 2334 GMT 1 Mar 86

[Moscow TASS International Service in Russian at 1114 GMT on 2 March carried a service message killing the following item]

[Text] Washington, 2 Mar (TASS) -- Tass correspondent Yuriy Shvets, reports:

In his radio address President Reagan declared his support for the plan of reorganization of the system of arms purchases by the Pentagon. It was drafted by a two-party commission led by former deputy secretary of defense David Packard. As it emerges from the address of the White House chief, the aim of the plan is to accelerate the arms buildup. The President once again called for the continuation, as he called it, of the "historic program of rebuilding America's military might" and accused Congress of "undermining the efforts" of his administration in this sphere. This accusation was provoked by the fact that dissatisfaction has recently been growing among legislators over the excessive growth of the Pentagon appropriation at the same time as a sharp reduction on expenditure on social programs.

Although the Packard commission was created last year to investigate the many cases that have come to light of the Pentagon squandering U.S. taxpayers' money and of swindling by the war department's [as received] contractors, the plan proposed by it gives no answer to the question of how to combat these phenomena. Instead, it has worked out recommendations, the substance of which consists in seeking to produce more weapons in conditions of an unprecedented budget deficit. The main demand of the plan's authors is that Congress interfere less in Pentagon affairs and "eliminate all barriers" in the path of an unbridled arms race. In essence, it is a question of completely liberating the war department from the control of the legislators.

The president has expressed his resolve to implement the Packard commission's recommendations.

Reiterates Military Budget Plea

LD021408 Moscow TASS in English 1340 GMT 2 Mar 86

[Text] Washington, March 2 TASS -- In his latest radio address to the nation U.S. President Ronald Reagan has once again issued a plea for further increases in the country's military spending.

"We've come far," he said, "in building the solid foundations of a strong and secure national defense, but we have not finished the job. We must not let all that we've accomplished in the last five years be undermined by careless slashing at the defense budget." Over the Reagan administration's five years in office, U.S. military expenditures have swelled dramatically to total over one trillion dollars.

The White House now is pulling all the stops out for the Pentagon's budget in the next fiscal year to grow by nearly 12 percent over the current one. Otherwise, the President claimed, America would "slide back into helpless insecurity" and become a "paper tiger". "It is the prime duty of Congress to appropriate the necessary resources to keep our defenses strong," he said.

Reagan's radio address came as a followup on his recent televised statement to the nation. The U.S. President used both opportunities to try and muster the Americans' support for foisting another round of the arms race on the United States and for continuing to maintain the same old unconstructive and hopeless positions-of-strength approach to relations with the Soviet Union. The objective of this policy is to achieve a decisive military advantage over the USSR and gain a possibility to threaten it with a first nuclear strike.

This policy is criticized by many prominent U.S. politicians noting that mounting his pressure on Congress, Reagan resorts to a crude doctoring of facts.

Senator William Proxmire said the President was basically wrong when he went on talking about a U.S. military lag behind the Soviet Union. The United States, the senator argued, did not need any extra appropriations for military needs, which its chief executive was calling for. The United States, Proxmire stressed, should conduct arms control talks from positions of military parity.

Congressman Sander Levin said Reagan was trying to give the nation and Congress a scare with his claims about a "Soviet threat". But even a high-ranking administration spokesman briefing newsmen the other day, Levin added, had conceded there was an essential military equilibrium between the Soviet Union and the United States. The truth was, the senator said, that the United States had adequate defense capability.

THE WASHINGTON POST quoted an unidentified highly-placed administration official as saying that three in four Americans thought their country already had enough defense capability.

Barbara Boxer, a member of the House of Representatives, said, for her part, that the United States did not need at all to add further billions of dollars to its already outside military budget.

According to the latest public opinion surveys, 59 percent of the Americans consider U.S. military spending unreasonably high and think it necessary to axe it to reduce the enormous federal budget deficit. Only 22 percent of the Americans, as indicated by public opinion polls taken by THE WASHINGTON POST and ABC television, support increases in military outlays.

Rear-Admiral Gene Larocque (ret.), director of the Washington-based Center for Defense Information, said that in his bid to convince Congress and the American people of the need to boost military spending by another 34 billion dollars, the President had chosen to ignore the real buildup of U.S. military power in the past 20 years. The President had claimed, he noted, that in the past 20 years the United States had not modernized its nuclear force, while in fact since 1965 it had built more than 1,300 new ballistic missiles and 10,000 nuclear warheads for them.

Importantly, during the 1970s, which were described by Reagan as a period of "decline" for the U.S. nuclear force, the Pentagon actually installed more nuclear warheads on its strategic missiles than the Soviet Union.

Speaking in a NEW YORK TIMES interview, former U.S. President Jimmy Carter accused President Reagan of "habitually" misstating the record of U.S. military modernization programs and of following an agenda for national security that had little chance of success. Carter said that President Reagan was persisting in a pattern of statements "he knows are not true and which he personally promised me not to repeat".

KORNILOV ON 'STATE TERRORISM' IN U.S. POLICY

LD021452 Moscow TASS in English 1438 GMT 2 Mar 86

["State Terrorism in the Policy of the United States" -- TASS take identifier; "Who Encourages Terrorism?" -- TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow, March 2 TASS -- By TASS political news analyst Yuriy Kornilov.

All indications of recent time are that reliance on force and diktat in dealing with sovereign states remains at the core of Washington's foreign policy. America's strength is an indispensable element of the world, the President said in a recent address to the nation. "Strength is the most persuasive argument we have," he declared February 26 at a meeting with the leaders of the national peace institute. Several days later the President called in a radio address to the nation for carrying on with a "historic program of rebuilding" America's military might. Cynical intervention in the affairs of other countries, threats and terrorism are a component part of that militarist course.

It is well known that after coming to power in the United States the present Republican administration lifted the restrictions, curtailed as they were, on operations of the American special services introduced following a series of scandalous revelations of the 1970s, and for five years now have literally been showering these special services with funds.

The annual budget of the Central Intelligence Agency reportedly topped 1.5 billion dollars. That agency specializing in espionage and subversive operations employs a permanent staff of more than 16,000.

More than 200 centers, each of them relying on numerous "bases" and "branch offices" -- such is the CIA network in Western Europe. There, American special services, working in tandem with the special services of other NATO countries, plan and carry out wide-scale ideological and other subversive operations against socialist countries and make efforts to undermine progressive organizations in capitalist states. Trying to "supplement" the aggressive policy of those quarters in the United States which have set themselves the aim of turning that part of the European Continent into a place d'armes for a nuclear missile attack on the U.S.S.R., into a nuclear hostage of the Pentagon, the CIA concentrates its special efforts on dampening the intensity of massive anti-war campaigns and discrediting the anti-war movement which demands the removal of U.S. "Pershing" and cruise missiles from European soil.

It is well known what role the CIA played in staging the fascist putsch of the "black colonels" in Greece in 1967, in provoking "strategic tensions" in Italy, Portugal and other NATO countries, in numerous attempts to remove from the political scene General de Gaulle, to compromise or destroy other prominent political figures who disagreed with the adventurist course of the White House.

Hardly a single week passes without new facts coming to light about fresh crimes committed in different regions of the world by American experts in "cloak and dagger" operations, their hirelings and henchmen. Washington-based benefactors and instructors of the terrorists allocated more than a billion dollars on the undeclared war against revolutionary Afghanistan.

Washington and the American special services are trying to halt the democratic process in Nicaragua, supervising the criminal operations of the "contras" who sow terror in that sovereign country. With more than 11,000 Nicaraguans already killed in consequence. Washington and its special services are supporting splinter groupings in Angola, trying to kindle national strife in India, and sending Pol Pot's bandits into independent Kampuchea.

Trying to conceal the fact that Washington regards terror as one of the most important instruments of its foreign policy, the ruling quarters of the United States make frequent but utterly false calls for combatting "international terrorism".

But what, it is appropriate to ask, is the real worth of these calls if the American press itself admits that over the years of the Republican administration the number of "special operations" of the CIA has grown at least five-fold and that at the present time the CIA is engaged in more than 50 major operations of that kind? What is the real worth of indignation and lamentations of Washington over some or other terrorist acts directed against prominent political and public figures of different countries -- acts which indeed cause public outcries -- when it is well known that at the 39th session of the United Nations General Assembly the United States, at one with Israeli storm troopers and Chilean neofascists, stubbornly obstructed the passing of a resolution on the inadmissibility of the policy of state terrorism?

The CIA operates as a secret mafia staging politically-motivated killings, kindling wars in other countries and forming groups of mercenaries to topple legitimate governments and organizations. This was stated by Sean McBride, a prominent state and public figure of Ireland, winner of the Lenin and Nobel peace prizes. It is difficult to add anything to that vivid description.

WEINBERGER'S REMARKS ON SOVIET ARMS SPENDING CITED

LD031043 Moscow TASS in English 1002 GMT 3 Mar 86

[Text] Washington, March 3 TASS -- TASS correspondent Aleksandr Shalnev reports:

The Americans do not wish to spend money on military needs any longer. They believe that there is no need for that. "Enough is enough", they say. Such admissions, rare for an official representative of the U.S. Administration, have been made by Caspar Weinberger, U.S. secretary of defence. Speaking in a CBS television programme, he was forced to agree with the anchorman that the Americans had sharply lessened their support for the plans for a further buildup of the U.S. military potential. According to the results of the public opinion poll carried out by THE WASHINGTON POST newspaper together with the ABC television company, only 22 percent of the pollees favour today an increase in military spendings, while five years ago the figure was 72 percent.

Although the Pentagon chief recognized that, he continued advocating a buildup of militarisation of the United States. "We need more", he bluntly said. Weinberger "motivated" his stand by hackneyed references to non-existent Soviet military threat, while claiming without any sound reason, that the Soviet Union spends more than the United States on military needs. This brazen lie jarred even upon the anchorman. The facts indicate to the contrary, he reminded the defence secretary, "the USA spends more on military purposes than the USSR, especially on weapons systems."

The White House and the Pentagon are known to request from Congress for the 1987 fiscal year the record sum of more than 311 billion dollars for the arms race. This is almost 12 per cent up on the figure of the current fiscal year. Military spendings are actually the sole budget article of the budget on which it is planned to increase appropriations. The appropriations on other articles are either frozen or sharply cut. This concerns in the first place the social programmes for aid to the needy Americans.

There is nothing astonishing that in such circumstances an overwhelming majority of the inhabitants of the country tell the Pentagon "enough". But to all appearances, they in Washington do not wish to heed these just demands.

CROWE ADMITS U.S. AIMS TO TOPPLE NICARAGUAN REGIME

LD031011 Moscow TASS in English 0949 GMT 3 Mar 86

[Text] Washington, March 3 TASS -- The main aim pursued by Washington in giving aid to the terrorist gangs of the "contras" is to overthrow the legitimate Nicaraguan Government. This has been admitted by Admiral William Crowe, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Speaking on an NBC television programme, the admiral said that military victory by the forces of counter-revolution was "desirable." It is desirable if the Government of Nicaragua does not change its policy, Admiral Crowe said. The Reagan administration has recently asked Congress to allocate another 100 million dollars to "aid" to the terrorists. The bulk of that sum will be spent on direct military aid.

SHULTZ DISCUSSES AID WITH CHADIAN FOREIGN MINISTER

LD10708 Moscow TASS in English 0204 GMT 1 Mar 86

[Text] Washington, March 1 TASS -- Talks between U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz and Foreign Minister of the Ndjamena regime Lassou were held here to discuss the question of speeding up the granting of U.S. military aid to Chad. The aid will include consignments of anti-aircraft missiles, fire arms and ammunition. Commenting on the results of the talks, a spokesman for the State Department said that the USA is considering additional measures to step up military aid to the Habre regime.

CONGRESS WEIGHS CUTTING AID TO ANGOLAN REBELS

LD010647 Moscow TASS in English 0209 GMT 1 Mar 86

[Text] Washington, March 1 TASS -- A draft resolution which prohibits the administration to give secret aid to gangs of UNITA [National Union for the Total Liberation of Angola] splitting group without special permission of the supreme legislative body of the USA has been submitted for consideration of the permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the U.S. House of Representatives. The author of the document is the committee's chairman Congressman Hamilton (Democrat, Indiana). In this connection the White House expressed sharp annoyance at the attempts of the Congress to make correctives to President Reagan's foreign policy.

U.S. SURVEILLED PALME, PEACE CAMPAIGNERS

LD011922 Moscow TASS in English 1740 GMT 1 Mar 86

[Text] Moscow, March 1 TASS -- By TASS political news analyst Anatoliy Krasikov:

The world has been shocked by the news of the murder of prominent political figure, Prime Minister of Sweden Olof Palme. The motives of the crime have not as yet been revealed, the culprit, or culprits are unknown. It is no secret, however, that it is the person whose name is inseparably linked with the campaign for peace, disarmament and fruitful cooperation between countries with different systems who has fallen victim to the terrorist act.

Olof Palme was vice president of the Socialist International, he headed the independent commission on disarmament and security, and actively participated in the work of the "Group of Six" which comprises leaders of Argentina, Mexico, Sweden, India, Tanzania and Greece who are pressing for an end to the arms race.

His pacifism logically stemmed from all his previous activity and, specifically, from his involvement in the movement against the U.S. "dirty war" in Vietnam, the involvement which prompted the Central Intelligence Agency to keep under surveillance for several years the future head of the Swedish Government.

And here is another report in the world press. The 13-year-old American schoolgirl Samantha Smith, who died in an air crash last year, had been under surveillance of the U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation. The American political police were alarmed by the "peace mission" assumed by the girl after her 1983 trip to the Soviet Union.

Indeed, Samantha said on several occasions that she decided to devote her life to friendship between the Soviet and American peoples. The news of the actions by those who long for the times of McCarthyism has given rise to public indignation. Congressman Don Edwards declared that the FBI had no right to keep under surveillance such a wonderful girl as Samantha Smith.

Surveillance over peace campaigners and "preventive actions" against the "most dangerous pacifists" have acquired an all-out character. Newspapers recently quoted H. Hever, a senior official at the West German Interior Ministry, as confirming in one of the Bundestag commissions that the West German intelligence BND is gathering information on members of the movement International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War and is handing it over to corresponding bodies in Bonn. It would be better, said the movement's representative in the Federal Republic T. Bastian, if the West German Government joined the movement to jointly seek for ways to avert the nuclear menace.

Alas, militarists of all hues do not abandon their attempts to intimidate peace activists and punish those who do not give in to the scare campaign. In the United States alone, tens, if not hundreds, of campaigners against the war threat have found themselves in the dock. One of them, Richard Millet, 27, is serving a four-year prison term for installing a placard reading "No to weapons of mass annihilation" at the entrance of the Pantex plant linked with the production of nuclear weapons.

The struggle for peace calls for courage. Jean Jaures was one of the first persons this century to have proved that. But peace and life are worth struggling for.

TASS CITES MCGOVERN REMARKS ON GORBACHEV REPORT

LD010941 Moscow TASS in English 0804 GMT 1 Mar 86

[Text] Washington, March 1 TASS -- Prominent U.S. politician George McGovern has said that the Soviet Union's position on arms limitation is sensible and consistent and that this has been borne out once again by the speech delivered at the 27th Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union by Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee.

The former senator and Democratic presidential hopeful also said in a TASS interview that the measures to reduce nuclear arms and defuse military tension proposed in Mikhail Gorbachev's report met the interests of the Soviet Union and the United States as well as all other countries.

McGovern singled out as being particularly important the Soviet Union's moratorium on nuclear blasts and its readiness, expressed by the general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, for dramatic cuts in the strategic nuclear systems of both sides and for the scrapping of the U.S. and Soviet medium-range missiles on station in the European zone.

COMMENTARY ON POTENTIAL FOR SINO-SOVIET COOPERATION

OW021347 Moscow in Mandarin to China 0200 GMT 28 Feb 86

[Station observer Mulatov commentary: "Make Use of the Potential for Cooperation"]

[Text] Dear Chinese listeners and friends: I believe that it is important to draw your attention to some principled theories and proposals for deciding the CPSU's policies toward all socialist countries, including China.

In its political report to the 27th CPSU Congress, the CPSU Central Committee stressed that today's peace and social progress have a much closer relationship with the viability of economic and political developments in the world socialist system than at any other time. Proceeding from this fact, the Soviet Union's party and state have resolutely and consistently adopted policies that enable all socialist countries to cooperate more and more positively with each other, and have adopted policies that enable socialist countries that are members of the Warsaw Treaty Organization, CEMA, and those socialist countries that have not joined this socialist community cooperate more and more positively with each other.

Comrade Gorbachev stated on the rostrum of the 27th CPSU Congress: We do not believe that this community of friendship is separated from other socialist countries by certain obstacles. The CPSU advocates establishment of a sincere and candid relationship with all communist parties and all countries in the world's socialist system. It advocates an exchange of views with them as comrades. This also fully applies to every aspect of Soviet-Chinese relations.

Dear Chinese listeners and friends: It is necessary to note that what is referred to here is a mutual relationship between two allies, the two largest socialist countries in the world. The international climate in Asia and the world relies, to a certain extent, on how good Soviet-Chinese relations are and on the degree of mutual cooperation between the Soviet Union and China. This has been proven many times.

Comrade Gorbachev has pointed out with satisfaction a definite turn for the better in Soviet-Chinese relations. As you also know, although there exist differences between our two countries in our attitudes toward a series of international issues, another point is much more important. Exactly as Comrade Gorbachev pointed out in the report, the possibility for working together and cooperating with each other exists on many occasions on the basis of equality and principles and in a situation where no harm will be done to a third country.

According to evaluations by the Soviet leadership, the potential for cooperation between the Soviet Union and China is tremendous, and the reason for its tremendousness lies in the fact that the cooperation conforms with the interests of our two countries. To make use of the tremendous potential of Soviet-Chinese cooperation and to constantly expand the scopes of mutual understanding and mutual cooperation are the common aspirations of the people of the Soviet Union and China. The CPSU advocates that these long-cherished aspirations be brought into the reality of actual policies in the interest of socialism and the cause of peace, which are inalienable and most valuable to the people of our two countries. No matter what the characteristics, economic standards, size, historical traditions, and national traditions each socialist country has, they all have the same class interest. The thing that enables the various socialist countries to unite is foremost and is greater than the things that separate them.

Dear Chinese listeners and friends: This is what the principled, programmatic theory of the CPSU's policies toward the various socialist countries is. It was in this manner that such a theory was proposed in the new draft revised version of the CPSU Program submitted for examination to the 27th CPSU Congress being held in Moscow.

TASS NOTES XINHUA REPORT ON GORBACHEV SPEECH

LD261957 Moscow TASS in English 1707 GMT 26 Feb 86

[Text] Beijing, February 26 TASS -- The XINHUA news agency, which has transmitted a detailed summary of the Political Report made by General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee Mikhail Gorbachev at the 27th CPSU Congress, noted, among other things: "Touching upon Soviet-Chinese relations, Mikhail Gorbachev has stated that one can speak with satisfaction of a certain improvement of mutual relations between the Soviet Union and its great neighbour -- socialist China". "The differences in approaches, specifically to a number of international problems, remain", he added. "But we note something different -- the possibility in many cases to work jointly, to cooperate on an equitable and principled foundation, not to the detriment of third countries".

INDUSTRIAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT IMPLEMENTED

OW021337 Moscow in Mandarin to China 0200 GMT 1 Mar 86

[Text] The Soviet Union and China have begun to implement their agreement on industrial, economic, and technical cooperation.

According to the agreement, the Soviet Union will assist China in building seven new and rebuilding 17 industrial and chemical enterprises producing electricity, ferrous metals, nonferrous metals, machinery, and coal.

COMMENTARY VIEWS JAPAN'S POSITION ON SDI

OW020535 Moscow in Japanese to Japan 1000 GMT 1 Mar 86

[Andreyev commentary]

[Excerpts] Judging from the nature of modern weapons, it would be impossible for any nation to rely solely on military technology to protect itself against such weapons, however strong a defense system it might develop. This is the position of the Soviet Union as stated by General Secretary Gorbachev in his Political Report to the 27th CPSU Congress.

In this connection, we cannot but be concerned and apprehensive about Japan's position. The Japanese ruling circles have lately assumed a positive position on the issue of their country's participation in the extremely dangerous "star wars" program. Prime Minister Nakasone recently said that Japan has no plan to postpone a final decision indefinitely. Ruling party and government leaders also agreed to officially encourage private business to take part in the space militarization program. Japanese newspapers are reporting on vigorous activities being carried out before the Japanese Government makes a final decision on its position, which will probably be one that pushes Japan into a deeper involvement with the Strategic Defense Initiative.

Meanwhile, YOMIURI SHIMBUN has carried a noteworthy article saying that even private business leaders have expressed apprehension that their participation in SDI research and development projects might be perceived as research for military purposes. Frankly speaking, in this case those business leaders have clearer foresight than some political leaders, because as far as the "star wars" program is concerned, so many factors justify their apprehension.

According to a KYODO report, a U.S. Government leader recently told an official representative of the Japanese Government that the "star wars" program will not replace nuclear weapons but reinforce them. His statement reflects the true U.S. intention.

Japan had earlier attached a variety of reservations to SDI, which sometimes sounded like pretexts, even saying that it could take part should it be defensive in nature. It had long been known that such pretexts represented a clumsy attempt to justify Japan's involvement with the U.S. military program. Furthermore, politicians and military experts in many countries, including the United States, had pointed out the aggressive nature of the "star wars" program.

A former adviser to President Reagan on scientific affairs said that the purpose of SDI is to place a nuclear blanket over the Soviet Union. U.S. official quarters thus admitted that the U.S. Government views the "star wars" program not as a so-called shield for the free world but as (?an extension of nuclear weapons in the continental United States).

That the United States has revealed its true intention has provided the Japanese Government with a good opportunity to look again at prospective cooperation with the Pentagon. U.S. Government leaders have thus produced the possibility to find out the truth about Japan. If Japan should agree to participate in the U.S. space militarization program at this time when the United States has revealed its true intention, it would show that the Japanese Government's peace-loving pronouncements are not worth a penny.

AMBASSADOR TO TOKYO ABRASIMOV RETURNS TO POST

OW271247 Tokyo KYODO in English 1233 GMT 27 Feb 86

[Text] Tokyo, Feb 27 KYODO -- Soviet Ambassador to Japan Petr Andreyevich Abrasimov returned to his past in Japan Thursday after attending the 27th Soviet Communist Party Congress currently in session in Moscow.

The ambassador also participated in the general meeting of the Central Committee held prior to the congress. He had left here for Moscow on February 16. Rumors had circulated here that the 73-year-old envoy, a close friend of late Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev, would be arrested or dismissed by new General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev who criticized Brezhnev in his opening speech at the party congress.

Sources close to the Foreign Ministry here said that the ministry has no information as to why the ambassador returned to Tokyo while the congress was still in session.

1986-90 TRADE AGREEMENT SIGNED WITH DPRK

PM281302 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 28 Feb 86 Morning Edition p 8

[TASS report under general heading: "Official Announcements"]

[Text] Talks between USSR and DPRK government trade delegations concluded in Moscow 26 February. A trade and payments agreement between the countries for 1986-1990 was signed.

The agreement was signed by USSR Foreign Trade Minister B.I. Aristov and DPRK Foreign Trade Minister Choe Chong-kun. DPRK Ambassador to the USSR Kwon Hui-kyong was present at the signing of the agreement.

KARMAL PRAISES SOVIET SUPPORT; CALLS FOR TALKS

LD011747 Moscow TASS in English 1648 GMT 1 Mar 86

[Text] Moscow, March 1 TASS -- "From the time of the October Revolution to the present days, when the 27th CPSU Congress is being held, the whole of mankind has had the opportunity to see for itself that the Soviet Union is a consistent fighter for peace and the independence of peoples", it was stated by Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan, chairman of the Revolutionary Council of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan. He spoke today at the press centre of the 27th CPSU Congress. "The Soviet Government has always come out for freeing the peoples of the world from exploitation, for the development of states along the road of democracy and social progress".

"The historic treaty of friendship between Afghanistan and Soviet Russia was signed 65 years ago. Our friendship, illumined by the Great October Revolution, shines for us, Afghans, like a sun of freedom. After the April Revolution it has acquired a genuinely brotherly nature."

"Despite the undeclared war the working people of Afghanistan under the leadership of the only organised patriotic force in the country - the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan - have achieved during the past few years considerable successes in the economic, political, cultural and social fields. The party's ranks have grown ten-fold. The party's activities have the support of workers, peasants, representatives of the religious and other sections of the country's population. The new political system created by the revolution is operating with mounting effect".

"The foreign policy of the DRA is a policy of peace. We have strong motives for that", Babrak Karmal stressed. "It is only in a peaceful situation that it is possible to create a democratic society and make one's people happy. But the imperialist forces are pursuing an aggressive policy, placing mankind on the brink of nuclear war. It is our internationalist duty to struggle for peace in every part of the world".

"The same forces are threatening the republic's security. An amazing and surprising shortsightedness is being displayed by the ruling circles of Pakistan, which is becoming a victim of the aggressive policy of the United States as a result of which it is a vigorous participant in the undeclared war against the DRA. By its substance Iran's course is hostile to our revolution. To our profound regret socialist China too is pursuing a shortsighted policy in respect of the people of Afghanistan. We all must search for ways leading to mutual understanding. The situation around Afghanistan can be normalised only by way of political talks", Babrak Karmal stated.

KESHTMAND ADDRESSES USSR-DRA TREATY CELEBRATION

LD282103 Moscow TASS in English 0630 GMT 28 Feb 86

[Text] Moscow, February 27 TASS -- "Friendship with the Soviet Union is to us today not only a noble historical tradition, but also a political necessity," said Soltan Ali Keshtmand, member of the Political Bureau of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan Central Committee, chairman of the DRA Council of Ministers. It serves as a reliable guarantee of Afghanistan's territorial integrity, independence and sovereignty as a free, peaceable and non-aligned state. At the same time it is also a source of the country's economic progress.

Ali Keshtmand was addressing a celebration meeting in Moscow devoted to the 65th anniversary of the Soviet-Afghan Friendship Treaty.

"The Soviet Union is prepared to give further fraternal assistance to the Afghan people in its creative activity," the meeting was told by Anatoliy Dumachev, chairman of the USSR State Committee for Vocational Training.

Dumachev noted that progressive reforms are being carried out in the DRA in conditions of a fierce struggle against home and foreign counter-revolution, whose activity is directed and financed above all by U.S. imperialism. He said: "The Soviet people fully approve of the Afghan Government's initiatives for ensuring security and establishing peace in the region. Total cessation and guaranteed non-resumption of armed and of every other interference from the outside in DRA's home affairs should be ensured for a political settlement of the situation around Afghanistan."

SUPPORT FOR DRA REBELS LINKS IRAN TO U.S.

NC011517 Moscow in Persian to Iran 1700 GMT 28 Feb 86

[Igor Sheftunov commentary]

[Text] In a recent edition of the Tehran-based newspaper ABRAR, its readers were openly informed of the crudest type of interference by Iranian officials in the domestic affairs of neighboring Democratic Afghanistan. The examples cited included extensive financial, military, and political support from Iran's Islamic regime to Afghan counter-revolutionaries. Senior Iranian officials are also involved in this. According to the newspaper, representatives of the offices of the president and the prime minister, as well as the Interior Ministry and the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, control and coordinate the operations of the so-called Afghan fighters for religion who have found refuge in Iran. A special body led by a high-ranking clergyman has been formed for this purpose. Special training centers for members of the marauding bands sent into Afghanistan have been set up in Tehran, Qom, Mashhad, Esfahan, and Yazd. ABRAR describes these bases as officially recognized organizations belonging to the so-called Islamic resistance movememt of Afghanistan.

One can judge the character of this movement by looking at groups like the Jami'at-e Eslami led by Rabbani, and the Hezb-e Eslami headed by Hikmatyar. ABRAR does its best to praise them. However, Iranian officials themselves confessed 5 years ago that the Jami'at-e Eslami, which was organized in Iran, and its general staff, which is in Mashhad along with Rabbani, had close links to the CIA and carried out its missions. At that time, many of Tehran's newspapers called Rabbani a U.S. hireling. Under pressure from the country's progressive circles, Iranian officials were forced to prohibit the Jami'at-e Eslami's activities throughout the country. However, this imperialist-backed organization now enjoys the support of Iranian officials once more, and receives praise from the Iranian press.

The link between Hikmatyar's Hezb-e Eslami group and the U.S. imperialists is also quite clear. Everyone is aware of the fact that this organization is financed by a U.S. committee for so-called Aid to Afghanistan, and similar bodies that the CIA uses to guide and finance the operations of Afghan counterrevolutionaries. Hikmatyar himself has a large account at the American Express Bank, and money is transferred to him from the United States. The U.S. Committee for Aid to Afghanistan alone gave Hikmatyar an additional $200,000 for his bank account.

This so-called fighter for religion is not ashamed to be involved in the filthiest and most abominable types of business. He has a large income from two special opium-processing laboratories in the Adam Khel region near Peshawar. He also owns a number of jewelry stores in Peshawar, as well as a transport company.

The popular revolution in Afghanistan terminated the rule of feudal lords, usurers, and the dependent bourgeoisie. It put a stop to the plundering activites of imperialist firms in Afghanistan. The U.S. imperialists, who have launched an undeclared war on Democratic Afghanistan, are trying to reestablish the system of exploitation in that country and are hyprocritcally hiding behind Islamic masks. The imperialists have drawn Iran into this disgusting adventurism too. Raja'i-Khorasani, Iran's permanent representative to the United Nations, wrote a letter recently pointing out that the U.S. Government only pretends to be a fighter for peace in Islamic Afghanistan and a defender of its Muslim people.

Those Iranians who help the U.S. imperialists continue their undeclared war against the people of neighboring Afghanistan are doing the same thing.

ISRAELYAN CONDUCTS DISARMAMENT TALKS WITH INDIA

LD021043 Moscow TASS in English 1032 GMT 2 Mar 86

[Text] New Delhi, March 2 TASS -- Soviet-Indian consultations on disarmament issues have been held in the Indian Foreign Ministry.

The Soviet side explained the provisions set forth in the CPSU Central Committee's Political Report to the 27th Party Congress and in the January 15 statement by Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee. The consultations were conducted by V. Israelyan, a member of the collegium of the Foreign Ministry of the USSR.

A conversation also took place with Indian Foreign Minister Bali Ram Bhagat.

SUPREME SOVIET, NEPALESE KING EXCHANGE CABLES

PM251539 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 22 Feb 86 Morning Edition p 1

[TASS report: "Exchange of Cables"]

[Text] The USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium has sent a telegram to King Birendra Bir Bikram Shah Dev of Nepal in which it conveys congratulations and best wishes to the king and the people of Nepal on the occasion of the country's National Day.

In a reply telegram addressed to the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, King Birendra expressed gratitude for the congratulations and best wishes.

SUPREME SOVIET PRESIDIUM CONGRATULATES AQUINO

PM011224 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 1 Mar 86 Edition p 1

[Text] To Her Excellency Mrs Corazon Aquino, president of the Republic of the Philippines:

Accept, Your Excellency, congratulations on your assumption of office as president of the Republic of the Philippines.

We hope that the friendly relations between our two countries will continue to develop for the good of the Soviet and Philippine peoples and in the interests of universal peace and international security.

The USSR Supreme Presidium

CPSU, COUNCIL OF MINISTERS GREET PHAM VAN DONG

OW281423 Moscow International Service in Vietnamese 1300 GMT 28 Feb 86

[Text] The CPSU Central Committee and the Council of Ministers of the Soviet Union recently addressed a congratulatory message to Comrade Pham Van Dong, member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of Vietnam [CPV] Central Committee and chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam. The message reads:

The CPSU Central Committee and the Council of Ministers of the Soviet Union convey to you, Comrade, sincere congratulations on your 80th birthday. Your entire life has been associated with the CPV, the vanguard Army of the Vietnamese people, the struggle of the Vietnamese people for the fatherland's freedom and independence, and the building of a unified Socialist Vietnam. The Soviet people know you well as one of their sincere friends, a patriot, and an eminent internationalist fighter who remains faithful to Marxism-Leninism and struggles for the ideals of peace and socialism.

Dear Comrade Pham Van Dong: We sincerely wish you good health and many achievements in your activities for the sake of the Vietnamese people's happiness and for the consolidation of the fraternal relations of friendship and overall cooperation between the Soviet Union and the SRV.

NEW ZEALAND'S LANGE PROTESTS FRENCH SANCTIONS

LD030831 Moscow TASS in English 0821 GMT 3 Mar 86

[Text] New York, March 3 TASS -- New Zealand's Prime Minister David Lange has expressed a protest against the French trade and economic sanctions in retaliation for the actions of the New Zealand authorities during the conflict in connection with the sinking of the Rainbow Warrior, a ship of the international organization of environmentalists. According to a report of the AP news agency, the New Zealand prime minister stressed in his letter to French Minister of External Relations Roland Dumas that the discriminatory restrictions imposed by Paris on imports from New Zealand are a breach of the General Agreement on Trade and Tariffs. The New Zealand authorities are known to have arrested and tried agents of French secret services, despite pressure from Paris. Last July the French secret service agents staged an act of sabotage in the port of Auckland, as a result of which the ship of opponents of French nuclear testing in the Pacific was sunk. The accident involved human casualties.

REPORTS, CONDOLENCES ON DEATH OF SWEDEN'S PALME

'Fighter For Peace'

LD012220 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1817 GMT 1 Mar 86

[Valentin Gubernatorov report from Stockholm from the "International Diary" program presented by Georgiy Alekseyev]

[Excerpt] Many Swedes were shaken today by the news of the foul murder of Olof Palme, the country's prime minister. National mourning has been declared in the country. The assassination of the prime minister happened late last night, in the very center of Stockholm when he and his wife were returning from the cinema. An unknown person fired two shots at Olof Palme's back, wounded his wife, and managed to escape. The prime minister died from his wounds on the way to hospital.

So far, nothing is known of the motives for the crime. The chief of the Stockholm police stated this morning that the murder was not for political reasons, and no political organization was involved in the attack. This morning Swedish radio and television reported that the 5000 delegates of the 27th CPSU Congress paid homage to the memory of Olof Palme with a minute's silence, and reported the profound sympathy expressed by the CPSU Central Committee and the USSR Government to the people of Sweden, the Social Democratic Labor Party, which Olof Palme headed for many years, and the Social Democratic and Labor Parties, many representatives of which are attending the 27th CPSU Congress.

Olof Palme enjoyed the great respect of the Soviet people. In about a month he was to have paid an official visit to the Soviet Union. The Swedish prime minister did a lot to develop good relations between our countries. He highly prized the Soviet peace initiative put forward in the statement by Comrade Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee. He expressed direct support for our initiative to put an end to all kinds of testing of nuclear weapons. Olof Palme was known throughout the world as a fighter for peace, for the independence of peoples, and for extensive cooperation between states for the good of mankind.

Carlsson Named Acting Premier

LD011631 Moscow TASS in English 1535 GMT 1 Mar 86

[Text] Stockholm, March 1 TASS -- The Executive Committee of Sweden's Social Democratic Labour Party has named Ingvar Carlsson, who took over as acting prime minister following the murder of Olof Palme, as party chairman. This means that the party asks him to form a new Government of Sweden. Earlier on, Carlsson held the post of deputy prime minister.

Arbatov Recalls Palme

LD011143 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1005 GMT 1 Mar 86

[Statement by G.A. Arbatov, director of the USSR Academy of Sciences Institute of the USA and Canada, during interval of 1 March session of 27th CPSU Congress -- recorded]

[Text] The session today began in an unusual and very sad way. The chairman reported the tragic death of Olof Palme, prime minister of Sweden and an eminent political figure, who has been assassinated.

The assassin is still being sought, and the congress has expressed its deep condolences to the people of Sweden and to the social-democratic parties on his tragic demise.

I, for my part, would like to say that I do not know who killed Palme, but I know all too well who hated him. I worked as a member of the so-called Palme Commission, although its title is the Independent International Commission for Disarmament and International Security. I was with him at conferences in many corners of the globe, from Hiroshima to Mexico City, from Stockholm to New Delhi, and I saw demonstrations against him, by fascist thugs, inflammatory articles, and provocations.

Reaction loathed Palme. This is understandable, for Palme was an honest and bold man, although not of one mind with us, not a supporter of communist ideas. He was a fervent supporter of peace and the independence of peoples, and an opponent of war and the arms race, and of colonial wars and invasions. He was never afraid of stating his convictions honestly and directly, nor of fighting for them, and naturally this earned him the love and gratitude of some and the hatred of others.

I can add only these personal points, because over the 5-years in which I worked in the Palme Commission, Olof became to a degree my personal friend. He and I argued a lot, but we agreed on many issues. But whether we argued or agreed, I always deeply respected him.

The last time I met him was in New Delhi. This was a tragic coincidence, a sort of symbol. He delivered a lecture there on the first anniversary of the vile murder of Indira Gandhi, a lecture in her memory. Little more than a month later he fell victim to a vile murder of exactly the same kind.

I spoke with him a great deal about the Soviet Union's latest disarmament initiatives. It was precisely at that time that the statement was published. Really this proved to be a focus for the commission's work and its documents. He had discussions there with Rajiv Gandhi, the new Indian prime minister, about the new initiatives by the six -- the leaders of the six states -- namely, their initiatives on disarmament, taking into account the situation that had come about and the Soviet proposals.

He was altogether an outstanding person who deserves respect and deserves to be long remembered. I seems to me that today, during the period of our congress, he was given a worthy symbol of rememberance when the whole congress stood and there was a minute's silence. He undoubtedly merited this.

Altogether at the present time one needs boldness to venture to struggle for peace and for freedom, and it is a risky business. But Olof Palme never feared this risk and was not afraid of danger.

Indeed, it is deeply symbolic that the congress has honored his memory, inasmuch as those noble causes, to the service of which he devoted his life, are very much reflected in and are the focus of attention of our congress. Disarmament, peace, international security, a life worthy of man, and the development of the peoples who had been enslaved by imperialism are all causes that really unite all honest people around the globe. Despite all the ideological differences between communists and the outstanding honorable social-democratic leaders that Palme represented, an ever greater zone of great global interests in common has become manifest. This is also expressed in the fact that the representatives of a large group of social-democratic and labor parties, including the Swedish Social Democratic Party, are for the first time attending our congress as guests.

Official Condolence Message

LD011624 Moscow TASS in English 1507 GMT 1 Mar 86

[Text] Moscow, March 1 TASS -- The CPSU Central Committee, the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet, and the Council of Ministers of the USSR have sent a telegram to the active prime minister of Sweden Ingvar Carlsson and the Executive Committee of the Social Democratic Labour Party of Sweden. The message says:

"It was with a feeling of profound indignation that we learned of the tragic death of Olof Palme, prime minister, chairman of the Social Democratic Labour Party of Sweden.

"Olof Palme was known as a prominent leader actively coming out for the strengthening of peace, disarmament, for international cooperation. He was a consistent champion of developing goodneighbourly relations between the Soviet Union and Sweden.

"Please accept our deep condolences to the people and Government of Sweden, and also to the family of the deceased."

DUTCH RATIFY ACCORD ON CRUISE MISSILE DEPLOYMENT

LD291959 Moscow TASS in English 1948 GMT 28 Feb 86

[Text] The Hague, February 28 TASS -- The ruling right centrist coalition, which resorted to procedural tricks, managed to get approval by an insignificant majority of votes at the second chamber of parliament of the American-Dutch agreement on terms of deployment of 48 American cruise missiles on the territory of the Netherlands.

The governmental parties which actively support the dangerous nuclear missile plans of NATO and USA in Western Europe hold at the second chamber a little over a half of the deputy seats. Therefore they resorted to such a vote formula under which a simple majority of votes, but not the two-thirds majority, was enough for ratification of the agreement. The parliament by 79 votes against 70 has backed the agreement on deployment of new American medium-range nuclear weapons and for that the ruling parties had to draw to their side deputies from small right-wing groupings.

The decision on ratification of the agreement was taken by parliament despite mass protests of the peace public of the country. In the opinion of the democratic forces, deployment of nuclear missile weapons to be controlled by the United States will lead to the Netherlands' losing the sovereign right to conduct its own policy in questions of war and peace. In the course of the national campaign about four million Dutch people put their signatures against deployment of American first strike nuclear missiles.

Representative of the Labour Party Claas de Fris has stated that official approval of deployment of American nuclear missiles is the cause of profound anxiety since it might have a destabilizing impact on the efforts being exerted towards reduction of nuclear arsenals.

CLOSER FRENCH-FRG MILITARY COOPERATION PLANNED

LD020953 Moscow TASS in English 0042 GMT 1 Mar 86

[Text] Paris, February 28 TASS -- A regular Franco-West German summit meeting ended in the French capital today centered on further expansion of bilateral military cooperation between France and the FRG.

During a press conference here, President Francois Mitterrand of France has emphasised that Paris is ready to hold consultations with Bonn on a possible use of French non-strategic weapons, including nuclear ones, in the FRG's territory "in the event of a crisis situation". However, the president added, a final decision on their use will be taken by France.

The sides expressed a desire to give a boost to cooperation in the field of joint production of arms and, in particular, in the creation of a Franco-West German combat helicopter.

France's and the FRG's decision, confirmed during the summit, to give greater scope to joint military exercises was an important element of intensification of military cooperation.

Notwithstanding the optimistic statements by Francois Mitterrand and Helmut Kohl about significance of the results achieved at the summit, local observers draw attention to the FRG's refusal to take a decision on participation in the French space project "Hermes".

[Moscow TASS International Service in Russian at 0958 GMT on 1 March in a similar report adds: "The possibility of using French strike forces on the FRG's territory is causing concern among the French public. The L'HUMANITE newspaper notes that the Bundeswehr is an inalienable part of NATO and is subject directly to the North Atlantic leadership. Therefore, in expanding militarist ties with the FRG, the French Government is putting its assertion of France's military 'independence' into doubt".]

KUWAITI MINISTERS DENY PLANS TO PURCHASE ARMS

LD010938 Kuwait KUNA in English 0818 GMT 1 Mar 86

[Text] Kuwait, March 1 (KUNA) -- Kuwait's Defense Minister Shaykh Salim al-Sabah has denied that his government was intending to purchase arms at present.

He told daily AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM published Saturday that news agencies reports in this respect were not correct.

Meanwhile, Oil Minister Shaykh 'Ali al-Khalifah denied what the Egyptian MIDDLE EAST NEWS AGENCY (MENA) reported that a tentative agreement was reached for trading Kuwaiti oil shipments for Soviet weapons.

He told the same paper that the report is incorrect, adding that no such negotiations were made during his presence in Moscow recently. Furthermore, "negotiating arms deals does not fall within my jurisdiction", he noted.

MENA had quoted press sources in Paris as saying that negotiations are currently under way between Kuwait and the Soviet Union to conclude a new arms deal within the Kuwaiti Government's policy of diversifying sources of armaments. The Arabic-language magazine AL-MUSTAKBAL published in Paris Saturday, quoted Gulf sources as saying that Shaykh 'Ali had initialed a tentative agreement in Moscow on trading Kuwaiti oil for Soviet weapons.

PRAVDA REPORTS ON EGYPTIAN SITUATION

PM281644 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 28 Feb 86 Second Edition p 8

[Own correspondent V. Peresada dispatch: "Situation in Cairo"]

[Text] Cairo, 27 Feb -- According to official reports, the situation in Cairo and its environs is fully under the government's control. Television and radio regularly transmit reports stating that the situation has also normalized in a number of other parts of the country where riots flared up the day before yesterday.

However, the situation remains complex. Shooting did not cease in Cairo's northern and southern suburbs last night. A curfew is still in force. Today it was suspended for a little while -- which enabled me to tour the capital. There are reinforced army cordons everywhere, replacing the traditional security force patrols. Armed personnel carriers stand at the entrances to the bridges over the Nile and outside government establishments. The population storms the stores, stocking up on food, and there are long lines of vehicles for the gasoline pumps. Traces of the disturbances can be seen near the pyramids -- the shells of gutted hotels, stores, and vehicles.

It has been officially announced that 36 people were killed and 325 injured during the events. More than 2,000 people were arrested.

ECONOMIC AGREEMENT WITH SYRIA RATIFIED

PM030854 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 1 Mar 86 Morning Edition p 12

[TASS report: "Agreement Ratified"]

[Text] By a decree dated 27 February 1986, the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium has ratified the agreement between the USSR Government and the Syrian Arab Republic Government on economic and technical cooperation, signed in Damascus 26 April 1985.